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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of

Changes in Message Forwarding
System for Amateur Service

PR Docket 93-85

To: The Commission

COMMENTS OF
THE VALLEY EMERGENCY RADIO ASSOCIATION (VERA)
ON
NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING
RELEASED: MARCH 18, 1993

Valley Emergency Radio Assn.
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June 28, 1993

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POSITION

The Valley Emergency Radio Association (VERA)¹ believes that **automatic forwarding of digital data should be allowed** in the Amateur Service and that **the originator of message traffic should be fully responsible for the content** of that traffic.

COMMENTS

The Commission has seen fit to include in this action a proposal to formally codify the decision it made several years ago that repeater control operators are not responsible for the inadvertent violative acts of a repeater user. We applaud this action and believe that the exact same thinking should apply as far as the responsibility of a digital BBS SYSOP is concerned. The originator of a digital message should be fully responsible for his actions and none of the SYSOPs who have automatic equipment that forward the message should have any special responsibility. Obviously, the BBS SYSOP (first in line or last in line) should be responsible for taking action to insure he does not forward any illegal message of which he is aware.

¹VERA is a NOT FOR PROFIT Association registered in the State of California. The purpose of the Association is to provide financial support for Amateur Radio facilities and services intended primarily for public service purposes. A demonstrated interest in supporting the public/emergency service aspects of Amateur Radio is a requisite for membership in the organization. In addition to voice repeater and remote base services on the 2M and 1.25M Bands, VERA (in conjunction with K6IYK acting as a private individual) is active in supporting several Amateur Packet Radio network facilities operating on the 222-225 MHz Band in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and Ventura Counties. The Association has been active in this support of the emerging Amateur Packet Radio network for almost a decade.